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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3423
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: PRAVDA SURVEYS A DECADE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. SUMMARY: THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEIZURE OF POLITICAL POWER BY BREZHNEV AND COMPANY FROM KHRUSHCHEV IS MARKED BY A MAJOR UNSIGNED PRAVDA ARTICLE WHICH SURVEYS THE DECADE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD. PRIMARILY A PANEGYRIC, THE ARTICLE IGNORES PROBLEMS AND LISTS THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF WHAT MAY NOW BE TERMED THE BREZHNEV REGIME. THE ARTICLE (PRAVDA OCTOBER 13) IS ACTUALLY AN UNACKNOWLEDGED COMMEMORATION OF THE OUSTER OF KHRUSHCHEV TEN YEARS AGO. THE
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OPENING SECTION OF THE ARTICLE CITES THE OCTOBER 1964 PARTY

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PLENUM AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE PARTY'S REJECTION OF "SUB-
JECTIVISM AND VOLUNTARISM," BOTH OF WHICH TERMS FIGURED IN THE
POLITICAL INDICTMENT OF KHRUSHCHEV. THE REST OF THE ARTICLE
CONSISTS OF SECTIONS ON SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC
ACHIEVEMENTS, AND A SURVEY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN THE LATTER,
THE COMMENTARY DEVOTES SPACE AND EMPHASIS TO SELF-CONGRAT-
ULATORY REMARKS ON THE CORRECTNESS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE
SOVIET PEACE POLICY, WHICH IT PORTRAYS AS THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENT
OF THE BREZHNEV ERA. ON PRESENT SOVIET INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS,
IT FOLLOWS THE STANDARD LINE, THOUGH ITS EMPHASIS ON MBFR IS
UNUSUAL, AS IS ITS FAILURE TO MENTION SALT. ITS STRESS ON THE
DANGERS OF BOURGEOIS CONTAMINATION CONTINUES THE CAMPAIGN
BEGUN IN MID-SEPTEMBER. IT ONCE AGAIN VOICES INDIRECT SUPPORT
FOR THE CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE.
END SUMMARY.

2. DOMESTIC SOCIETY. THE ARTICLE CONCENTRATES ON THE PRESENT
STATE OF SOVIET SOCIETY AND PRESENTS AN ENTIRELY FAVORABLE
PICTURE AS EVIDENCE OF THE CORRECTNESS OF PARTY SUPREMACY
IN ALL SPHERES OF SOVIET LIFE. AS COULD BE EXPECTED, PRIMARY
ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND
INITIATIVES AT THE EXPENSE OF DESCRIPTION OF THE EARLIER YEARS
OF THE POST-KHRUSHCHEV DECADE. IN ACCORD WITH THE PRESENT
GLORIFICATION OF BREZHNEV, THE ARTICLE MENTIONS HIM BY NAME
FOUR TIMES, INCLUDING HIS UNOFFICIAL TITLE OF "HEAD OF THE
POLITBURO," AND NAMES NO OTHER SOVIET LEADER. THE ARTICLE
FEATURES SUCH POLITICAL BUZZWORDS AS "SCIENTIFIC APPROACH,
COLLECTIVITY, BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE, AND REJECTION OF SHOW
AND FUSS." THE ONLY POLITICAL STATISTIC WHICH EMERGES IS THE
INFORMATION THAT THE EXCHANGE OF PARTY CARDS IS NOW 99 PER-
CENT COMPLETED.

3. THE ECONOMY. THE SECTION ON ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS REPEATS
THE CALL OF THE DECEMBER 1973 PARTY PLENUM FOR IMPROVED
MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMIC MACHINERY, BUT STRESSES ALSO THE
CURRENT CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIALIST COMPETITION AND "COUNTER PLANS"
FROM PRODUCTION UNITS. ONE RARE ADMISSION OF DEFICIENCY
APPEARS IN THE STATEMENT THAT CONSUMER GOODS AND SERVICES
REMAIN UNSATISFACTORY. THE OBLIGATORY COMPARISION OF SOVIET
ECONOMIC LIFE WITH THE UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, AND SOCIAL
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PESSIMISM FOUND IN THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES APPEARS IN THE
ECONOMIC SECTION.

4. MBFR. THE COMMENTARY LAMENTS THAT IT HAS NOT PROVED
POSSIBLE TO STOP THE ARMS RACE, AND NOTES THAT THE USSR STILL
HOPES TO ACHIEVE THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF TOTAL DISARMAMENT. IT
THEN CONTINUES: "UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY OF THIS TASK,
THE USSR IS READY TO AGREE AT FIRST TO PARTIAL MEASURES. THE

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SOVIET SIDE SEES THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING CONCRETE RESULTS AT (MBFR) IN THE NEAREST FUTURE, PROVIDING, OF COURSE, ALL PARTICIPANTS EXHIBIT GOOD WILL." THE OPTIMISTIC FOCUS ON MBFR IS UNUSUAL.

5. AFTER A DISCUSSION OF SOVIET-FRENCH AND SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS, THE ARTICLE CALLS THE POSITIVE CHANGE IN SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS "ONE OF THE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF RECENT YEARS." AS AN ILLUSTRATION, IT CITES THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR AGREEMENT, BUT DOES NOT MENTION SALT.

6. IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLES. THE COMMENTARY CONTINUES RECENT EMPHASIS ON THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE BY UNDERLINING THE "COMPLEXITY" OF THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, AND BY ISSUING A WARNING ON THE THREAT BY "AGGRESSIVE IMPERIALIST CIRCLES" TO FORCE ON THE SOCIALIST STATES "AN ALIEN REACTIONARY BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY AND MORALITY." IT CONCLUDES THAT "ALL OF THIS DEMANDS HEIGHTENED POLITICAL VIGILANCE, CONSTANT READINESS TO REBUFF ANY AND ALL PLOTS BY THE ENEMIES OF PEACE." INCLUSION OF THIS MATERIAL IN THIS AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTARY IS A FURTHER STEP-UP IN THE EMPHASIS THIS CAMPAIGN IS RECEIVING.

7. INTERNATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE. THE ARTICLE REPEATS SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE. AS IN THE PAST, THE ARTICLE STATES THAT THE "EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" AT SUCH A CONFERENCE "FIRST OF ALL ON QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN SINCE THE (1969 CONFERENCE)," WOULD BE USEFUL IN DELINEATING NEW GUIDELINES ON THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE.
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